Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of charging for a voice call, the voice call comprises ~~is represented by a~~ voice signals ~~signal~~ transmitted by a call source device and received by the call source device, comprising the steps of:

~~connecting a gateway to the call source device, the gateway capable to receive transmitted voice signal from the call source device;~~

providing a packetized voice network of a plurality of communicatively interconnected nodes, each node capable of communicating to and from each other node of the plurality;

connecting a ~~the~~ gateway to the call source device and to the packetized voice network, wherein the gateway comprises at least one of the plurality of communicatively interconnected nodes ~~via an ingress node that is at least one of the plurality~~;

linking the voice call through the gateway, to the call source device and an intended recipient, throughout duration of the voice call;

converting, at the gateway, the voice signals ~~signal at the gateway~~ transmitted by the call source device for the voice call, to a packetized ~~voice signal of packetized~~ digital data representative of the voice signal, if ~~the signal at if the gateway are not received as a~~ not received at the gateway as the packetized digital data ~~representative of the voice signal, the packetized digital data comprising a number of individual digitized information units~~;

~~delivering the packetized voice signal by the gateway to the ingress node;~~

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~~communicating, via the packetized voice network, the packetized voice signal by the ingress node to at least one other node of the plurality;~~

determining, via the <u>gateway</u> ~~packetized voice network~~, a ~~the~~ number characteristic of the packetized digital data representative of the voice signals transmitted by the call source device to the gateway; ~~and~~

<u>obtaining the number from the gateway; and</u>

preparing a bill for the voice call based on the number <u>from the step of obtaining</u>.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the packetized voice network communicates a plurality of distinct different voice calls initiated external to the packetized voice network<u>, linked to the packetized voice network through the gateway</u>, at least certain of the plurality can, but need not necessarily, be transmitted by a different <u>respective</u> call source device.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the step of <u>obtaining</u> ~~determining~~ is performed, respectively, for each respective call source device for a predetermined period, <u>and the step of preparing</u> further comprising the step of:

aggregating the number for each respective call source device over the predetermined period to obtain a respective result for each respective call source device for the predetermined period;

~~wherein the step of preparing the bill is performed~~ <u>invoicing,</u> respectively, for each respective call source device <u>in accord with</u> ~~and employs~~ the respective result.

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Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the packetized voice network communicates the packetized voice signal among respective ones of the plurality of nodes via voice over internet protocol (VOIP).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the number employs a network management protocol aspect <u>and the step of obtaining includes communication of digital data representative of the number</u>.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the voice calls include modem calls.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the gateway is communicatively coupled to a public switched telephone network to receive the ~~transmitted~~ voice ~~signal~~ <u>signals transmitted by the call source device for the voice call</u>.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the gateway is <u>also</u> communicatively coupled to a <u>second</u> packetized data network that is not the packetized voice network.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of preparing the bill employs a component selected from the group consisting of: the number, an average of the number during a time period, and a peak of the number over time.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable medium to implement a billing program for a packetized network carrying voice traffic, the voice traffic comprised of digital data units corresponding to voice calls initiated external to the packetized network and input to the packetized network via a gateway to the packetized network, the gateway links the respective voice calls through the gateway throughout duration of the voice calls, the packetized network comprises a plurality of intercommunicative nodes, comprising:

a first instruction sequence executable to obtain ~~retrieve~~ from the gateway ~~at least one node~~ of the packetized network a measure of network utilization associated with a respective one of the voice calls throughout duration of the respective one made through ~~received at~~ the gateway, the measure relating to a number of the digital data units comprising the respective one of the voice calls; and

a second instruction sequence executable to determine a charge in respect of the number.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the measure is a function of an average of the number over a period of time.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 12, wherein

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the measure is a function of a peak of the number during a period of time.

Claims 15-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method of charging for a voice call, the voice call is

initiated by a device communicatively connected to a call node of a packetized voice network

comprised of a plurality of intercommunicating nodes, the call node is capable of communicating

a packetized voice signal of packetized digital data representative of the voice call among the

plurality of nodes, comprising the steps of:

connecting the voice call through the call node ~~a gateway~~ to the packetized voice

network;

linking the voice call through the call node throughout duration of the voice call;

determining, via the packetized voice network, a number of individual digitized

information units of the packetized voice signal;

connecting the call node ~~gateway~~ to a gateway to the packetized voice network of

a call recipient device, the gateway capable to deliver the voice call, received by the

gateway from the call node over the packetized voice network, to the call recipient

device;

converting the packetized voice signal received at the gateway, to a voice signal

~~of format~~ understandable by the call recipient device, ~~at the gateway~~ prior to delivery of

the voice call to the call recipient device, if not otherwise understandable by ~~required for~~

~~delivery of the voice signal to~~ the call recipient device; and

preparing a bill for the voice call based on the number.

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Claim 30 (cancelled).